

To: Tomten, Dave[Tomten.Dave@epa.gov]
Cc: Wertz, James[Wertz.James@epa.gov]
From: Marcy, Ken
Sent: Fri 8/14/2015 9:52:17 PM
Subject: RE: URGENT: We need to develop a list by the end of this week
Mine Sites Spreadsheet R10 submitted 08 13 15.xlsx

Thanks Dave! Wish I could be there for the presentation. I'm not sure how the Durango incident is going to play out. As you know the initial HQ effort is very narrow in scope – I've attached the table we sent HQ in response (please don't distribute). The immediate concern was to make sure we wouldn't have a repeat in the near future. I'm hoping we can move from this narrow focus to the actual messaging including all of the points that you make – before this story loses steam. Part of the national mining team discussion this week worried me – I agree that the larger picture needs to be presented, but I think it's the wrong tack to point fingers at states, FLMAs, mining companies right off the bat, and instead find out what actually happened (Ed Moreen is going to be part of that initial panel this weekend), and make concrete recommendations for preventing this type of incident, however unintentional, from happening again – then talk about the big picture.

If you're around next week as the initial phase of this dissipates, let's have a conversation with Shahid. Ken

Ken Marcy | Regional Mining Coordinator, national priorities list coordinator

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From: Tomten, Dave
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 12:19 PM
To: Marcy, Ken; Hood, Lynne; Godsey, Cindi
Cc: Wertz, James

Subject: RE: URGENT: We need to develop a list by the end of this week

Ken

Thanks for narrowing the scope. I'd like to make a few points.

- I'm not aware of any sites in Idaho where EPA has an active role (assessment phase, removal or remedial) and where there are circumstances similar to Gold King.
- There are however many sites in Idaho where there are underground workings or other features (tailings impoundments), that drain water, where conditions could develop in the future that could lead to an uncontrolled release. For example, a roof collapse underground could occur in the future that could lead to development of pool of mine water with increasing pressure, and ultimately to a sudden uncontrolled release. EPA sites that come to mind include Blackbird, maybe some sites in the CdA Basin, or the Talache tailings piles (a removal site thought to be stable – but conditions could change. Non-EPA sites that come to mind include Atlanta 900 Level Adit (on FS ground), Clayton Silver (a shaft with significant flow located on private land), TCMC tailings facility.
- You should also be aware that there are engineered plugs at several non-EPA sites where there is pooled mine water behind the plug. Kinross' old DeLamar 16 Level adit, Triumph mine are good examples. We have no direct involvement in these sites, and do not routinely see data.
- A note on data quality. We should emphasize that EPA does not have an inventory of mines or mine features where failures may occur. Some states have partial datasets, and FLMA's may also maintain partial datasets, but the amount and type and quality (including completeness) of these info sources is suspect. EPA knowledge of problem sites is largely anecdotal and through conversations with colleagues/contacts at other agencies and with mining companies.
- Regarding expectations. We should convey to senior management that future uncontrolled and sudden releases at historic and modern mines are inevitable. If there is an interest, I could go through the draft ppt which provides my thoughts supporting this conclusion, and provide examples of failure modes to anticipate, and lessons learned to minimize future disasters. I've attached the draft ppt that I'm working on for a tribal conference that goes over this.

As always, call if Q's.

Dave

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From: Marcy, Ken

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 12:15 PM

To: Tomten, Dave; Hood, Lynne; Godsey, Cindi

Subject: FW: URGENT: We need to develop a list by the end of this week

Importance: High

Hey guys – I'm going to sit in on the DD call this afternoon. In the meantime, can you let me know if there are any sites you are aware of where EPA is actively involved in assessment or cleanup – or planned assessment/cleanup, where Gold King, tailings dam breach, etc. potential may be an issue? I'm checking with RPMs, SAMs and OSCs, but would love your input. Thanks for being on the call today!

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From: Mahmud, Shahid

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 9:36 AM

To: Adams, Bill; Biggs, Kirby; Carr, Lofton; Casanova, Rafael; Doolan, Mark; Gunter, Jason; Hanley, Jim; Hathaway, Ed; Hillenbrand, John; Hoogerheide, Roger; Jackson, Brad; Jenkins, Joy; Mahmud, Shahid; Mahoney, Michael; Marcy, Ken; Moreen, Ed; Price, Lisa; Progeess, Christina; Purcell, Mark; Riley, Gary; Root, Charlie; Sparks, Sara; Teichert, Candice; Tomten, Dave; Adams, Bill; Autrey, Brad; Aycock, Jim; Baumgarten, Gary; Bless, Diana; Butler, Barbara; Carr, Lofton; Chadwick, Dan; Cherepy, Andrea; Conway, Bette; Cozza, Daniel; Cruz, Francisco; Desai, Sheila; Deschambault, Lynda; Devito, Steve; DiCosmo, Nefertiti; Dixon, Douglas; Doolan, Mark; Forren, John; Forrest, Sabrina; Geselbracht, Jeanne; Godsey, Cindi; Goodrick, John; Grandinetti, Cami; Hanley, Jim; Hardy, Michael; Hathaway, Ed; Hillenbrand, John; Hood, Lynne; Housman, Van; Hudiburgh, Gary; Jackson, Brad; Jenkins, Joy; Jessop, Carter; Byrne, Jim; Johnson, Brent; Long, Larry; Lavaty, Ann; Lazorchak, Jim; Lensink, Andy; Lesser, Ben; Ellis, Lisa; Low, Seth; Mahmud, Shahid; Mahoney, Michele; Manoyan, Simon; Marcy, Ken; Mayer, Kevin; Miller, Anna; Egidi, Philip; Progeess, Christina; Purcell, Mark; Riley, Gary; Root, Charlie; Roy, Stephen; Russell, Carol; Teichert, Candice; Teitelbaum, Daniel; Tiago, Joseph; Tomten, Dave; Watt, Jamey; Wilkening, Matt

Subject: Fw: URGENT: We need to develop a list by the end of this week

Importance: High

Folks,

I am working at the Emergency Operations Center related to the Gold King Mine spill. As you know, Gina McCarthy is in Colorado and meeting with three attorney generals. Jim Woolford is going to have a call with the Division Directors and will be sending out an email stating the following:

While we continue to investigate the root causes of last week's release of mining waste

at the Gold King Mine in Colorado, we are instructing our Regions to immediately cease any field investigation work at mines including tailings facilities. We are conducting an investigation of the factors that led to last week's incident. Based on the lessons learned from that investigation, we will determine what guidance may be necessary to avoid similar incidents at other sites. While we stand down on existing field investigations and assessments at these mining sites, we also are instructing our Regions to identify existing sites with similarities to the Gold King Mine site to identify any immediate threats and appropriate response actions.

In the meantime the NMT has been tasked to come up with an inventory of sites that have ongoing or future assessments with features containing fluids (mine workings, tailings dams, open pits, heap leaches). So we need to develop a matrix of sites with the following fields:

Site Name

Location

Mine Features

Features containing water

Do the mine bearing features have:

Controls in-place (plugs, hydraulic drawdown)

No controls in place

No hydraulic issues

There may be more information but I need to jump on to another call. Thanks!

Shahid Mahmud
Team Leader
EPA Abandoned Mine Lands Team

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